

<b>USDA Rural Business Cooperative Services</b>	
<b>Type</b>	Broadband
<b>Potential for Funding</b>	\$8.9 Million available
<b>Contact Information</b>	Kenneth Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division, Telecommunications, USDA Rural Development (202)690.4673 or contact the State office at (317)290.3100
<b>Program Mission/ Focus</b>	The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide <u>currently unserved areas</u> , on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, with broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services.
<b>Program Area</b>	Rural Development Community Connect Grant Program
<b>Available Grants</b>	<p>Grants are available to establish broadband access to rural communities which are currently unserved. To be eligible for a grant, the Project must: (a) Serve a Rural Area where Broadband Transmission Service does not currently exist, to be verified by USDA Rural Development prior to the award of the grant; (b) Serve one and only one Community recognized in the latest U.S. Census; (c) Deploy Basic Broadband Transmission Service, free of all charges for at least 2 years, to all Critical Community Facilities located within the proposed Service Area; (d) Offer Basic Broadband Transmission Service to residential and business customers within the proposed Service Area; and (e) Provide a Community Center with at least ten (10) Computer Access Points within the proposed Service Area, and make Broadband Transmission Service available therein, free of all charges to users for at least 2 years.</p> <p>Minimum award for grant for FY 2006: \$50,000</p> <p>No maximum grant amount.</p> <p>Matching funds are required.</p>
<b>Application Deadline</b>	To be eligible for FY 2006 grant funding, paper copies must carry proof of shipping no later than May 15, 2006 OR electronic copies must be received by May 15, 2006.

	Late applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<p>An incorporated organization,</p> <p>An Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(b) and (c),</p> <p>A state or local unit of government,</p> <p>A cooperative, private corporation or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.</p>
<b>Application Process (grant guidelines)</b>	<p>Submit electronically: <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a> or to obtain a copy of the application materials go to <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm</a> or contact the State office (317)290.3100</p> <p>Federal Register/Vol. 71, No. 49/Tuesday, March 14, 2006/13073</p>